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### Summation Statements – Gordon Cartwright, Pekisko Group

Notes for summation remarks to Alberta's Coal Panel Gordon Cartwright - August 24, 2021.

**Overriding Principle:** prioritise development for the most benefit and **least harm.**

Three key economic considerations for economic development:

- 1) risk vs reward
- 2) duration of benefits and liabilities
- 3) profile of change to assets and liabilities, through time Risk: There is high risk of coal operations becoming stranded assets, as the world addresses climate change and moves to substitutions for metallurgical coal to reduce the carbon and environmental impacts of coking coal operations.

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Governments and investors are moving with conviction to decarbonise steel production, and to replace metallurgical coal. If we engage in coal mining on the eastern slopes of southern Alberta there is:

100% certainty: coal mining will displace existing water users

100% certainty: that water in Southern Alberta is already overallocated in drought years

100% certainty; coal mining will degrade watersheds

100% Certainty: coal mining will increase invasive species

100% certainty: coal mining will displace viable regenerative enterprises: grazing, timber, fishing, recreation, high quality water production

100% certainty: coal mining will impact downstream agriculture and secondary industry

100% certainty: coal mining will impact aquatic populations and river health



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100% coal mining will compromise nature's goods and services and the aesthetics we enjoy

100% certainty that additional coal from new mines will add to the commodity dynamics, of boom bust markets. More coal weakens existing operations.

100% certainty: that operations will impact the health of humans and local biota.

100% certainty: that Alberta will not improve its image of climate and environmental stewardship, or desirability for quality of life.

Duration of benefits are short term; perhaps 20 years or less (as international policy, and investor sentiment shifts away from metallurgical coal to direct reduction supply chains and production.)

**Assets:** We compromise watershed, agriculture and forestry, and their stewards. We compromise quality of life and industry for all who depend on clean, reliable water.

**Liabilities** short term and long term:

- 1) quality and quantity of water production
- 2) Greenhouse gas production in mining, transport, rails, marine loading and shipping, stock piling and combustion
- 3) congestion to railways, and in water transport that was a point of contention with the planned expansion of Trans Mountain pipeline capacity
- 4) Long term remediation efforts to restore vegetation, and control invasive species, in a compromised ecological status
- 5) Loss of climate resilience with simplified and corrupted plant and soil communities



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6) damage to our international standing which will affect tourism and investment

7) reduced quality of life for Albertan Regenerative resource, human creativity and work are what create new wealth. Extractive industry simply liquidates natural capital. In other mining operations metals and materials can enter a circular economy, but coal consumption produces a string of liabilities from mining, transport stock piling, to combustion. We need to Reinstate the Eastern Slope Policy commitment to watershed protection, that also give regenerative resources priority over extractive industry, on our eastern slopes. Those principles were important 45 years ago, are now only more important.

### **We Need To:**

- 1) Halt any coal exploration or development plans.
- 2) Cease any plans for new mines.
- 3) Clean up and restore sites that have been disturbed by exploration by 2025, and then maintain those areas.
- 4) Renew commitment to regenerative resources and break down the policy and communication barriers between government departments that work counter, productively against synergistic planning and cooperation.
- 5) Work to improve stewardship from all users, and to plan for optimisation of water, regenerative resource production, aesthetic values, and compatible recreation and tourism.

Respectfully,

*Gordon Cartwright*

August 24, 2021



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